United Nations A/C.1/55/8

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 October 2000
English
Original: Russian

Fifty-fifth session
First Committee
Agenda item 73
General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 13 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement made on 12 October 2000 by the official representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation relating to document CD/1625, which has been circulated by the United States at the Conference on Disarmament (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 73.

(*Signed*) Sergei **Lavrov**

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Annex to the letter dated 13 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement made on 12 October 2000 by the official representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

The United States delegation to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva has circulated document CD/1625 which asserts, inter alia, that the Moscow joint statement of principles on strategic stability made on 4 June 2000 by the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America contains a provision on the need to address the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missiles and missile technologies, "including through consideration of changes to the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty".

We consider it necessary to draw attention to the fact that the joint statement contains no such provision, nor does any other document adopted jointly by the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America. The United States is fully aware that the Russian Federation has not held, is not holding nor does it intend to hold any negotiations with it concerning the amendment of the ABM Treaty with a view to adapting it to the United States national missile defence system. Moreover, such an adaptation is impossible, since the prohibition of the deployment of anti-missile systems in the national territory and of the establishment of a basis for such a defence is the central provision of the ABM Treaty. Any amendment of that provision would divest the Treaty of its very purpose.

In our dialogue with the United States about strategic offensive weapons and missile defences, we have repeatedly pointed out and are still going to great lengths to demonstrate how detrimental the demise of the ABM Treaty would be for disarmament and strategic stability. The distortion of the documents adopted by the Presidents of the two countries, which we would hope is unintentional, serves no constructive purpose. We call upon the United States to focus on working constructively with us to ensure international security and strategic stability by maintaining and strengthening the ABM Treaty, as stipulated in the joint statement of the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States.